

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, January 4. 1706.

THE last *Review* brought me thorough the Article of Proportion of Members between *England* and *Scotland*, in the Parliament *which shall be of Britain* after the Union; and I flatter my self, that what is said upon that Head may be satisfactory, at least to such People who incline to be satisfied with Reason.

The next Article in Course respects the so much talk'd of Heads of Equalities and Equivalents, and this puts me back to speak a little more to Taxes and Trade.

I cannot but wonder at the Weakness of the Objections rais'd against the Union upon these Accounts, in which to me they seem to have so ill a Foundation, that either the People who raise them, do not understand them, or if they do, they are very forward Men to think, that others can be

impos'd upon by Arguments so easily overthrown.

I shall name a few of these Scruples, for Objections I cannot call them, and speak briefly to them,

1. They tell us, the Lands will sink in Value, a Mystery form'd in the Heads of some, that certainly have no Concern in the Lands, or do not understand them, and I'll only answer it by one Note. Supposing the Lands were not to be improv'd in their Value at all——The very Security of the Title of Land in *Scotland*, a thing sorely wanted in *England*, will immediately upon an Union raise the Values of Land, at least two Years Purchase, and I prove it by the West-ridings of *Yorkshire*, the only County in *England* that has obtain'd a Regifter, since which, and in about eight or nine Years,

Years, the Lands in that Division are advanc'd near five Years Purchase in the Value, only for the Security of a Title.

This is just like telling the Soldiers, they shall be the worse for the Union, and shall be all sent to the *West-Indies*; whereas first they have an immediate Advantage of *Englisch* Pay; and they that suppose them to be sent to our *West-Indies*, must allow the *Englisch* to have a great Confidence in the *Scots*, immediately to give them Possession of their rich Colonies.

And yet if I were to talk to the honest Soldiery of *Scotland*, I could tell them, the Union will help them to such a thing in *Britain*, as they are unacquainted with in *Scotland*, I mean Liberty; and this Liberty is such, as even a Soldier cannot be lifted but by his own Consent, and even when he is lifted, shall not be forced out of his Native Country without the same free Consent—From whence I could enlarge upon the Blessing of Liberty, and what Advantages *Scotland* should reap by it, but I wave that here.

These things I take to be meer Suggestions, rais'd for other and secret Ends: I shall leave them therefore, and proceed to others of more Moment.

2. That in the Salt Tax, the Draw-back allowed, is not equivalent to the Duty paid, and therefore the Remainder will be a Tax upon, and consequently a Discouragement to the Fishing Trade, by hindring the Exportation.

To this I answer, *First*, the Intent and Meaning of the Act of Parliament in *England*, before this Union was brought upon the Stage, was and still is, that the full Duty of Foreign Salt should be drawn back—*That I am positive in.* *Secondly*, the Method taken for doing it, so well answers the Meaning, that there have been Complaints in *England*, that the Merchants got Money by the Draw-back, and therein impos'd upon the Government: And I am very sure, that in the West of *England*, where our chief Herring Fishing is, the Merchants own themselves to be no Losers by it.

But to come to the Method, the Foreign Salt pays to the Crown 6 s. 8 d. per Bushel, 24 lib. Weight to the Bushel, now it being impossible to come to a Certainty, how much

salt was again exported in every respective Quantity, and Kind of Fish, so as to make the Draw-back exact upon the Measure: It was agreed to allow the Merchant such a Draw-back upon the Quantity of Fish of several Sorts, as by Computation amounted to the full Value of the Tax laid on the Salt us'd in curing the said Fish.

Now if this be an Equivalent here in *England*, as 'tis evident, and the Merchants no where complain, the Objectors would do well,

1. To shew that it is not an Equivalent in *Scotland*

2. To state the particular Quantities of Salt us'd in the respective Kinds, and placing the Draw-back against the Duty, shew their Country-men the exact Difference, and let the Nation see the Deficiency.

But while none of this is seen, and only a presumptive Objection offer'd, That it is not a sufficient Draw-back; I think, 'tis worth no further Notice: However to speak more particular to the Case, than I think it requires, I only hint a Question for the Gentlemen to answer, if they think fit.

The Draw-back, as I remember, is 8 s. 6 d. on every Barrel of Red-Herring containing 1000 Fish—Now, as here is no Occasion to make Calculations or Proportion of Measures, let any Man but make publick, whether the 1000 Herrings in *Scotland* shall take up more than 1000 Herrings in *England*; and if so, I'll grant it may be as they object, and on Proof they may at any Time claim a larger Allowance, tho' the Union be pass'd: For as by the Union, they are to have EQUAL ENCOURAGEMENTS, and the Meaning of the Act is, that the whole Duty shall be drawn back, they can never be denied so fair a Claim, when it is made out: But I dare say, no Man will ever enter upon that Calculation, or can hope to make out such a thing.

But then they say, the great Stocks to be employ'd in the Salt, will ruin the Trade, and yet they know, that on Importation of Salt, they that want Stocks, may give Bond for the Duty, they that pay it down, have 3 per Cent. for prompt Payments, which is a Consideration for the Disburse, or will pay Interest to borrow it.

With

With the same Success they object, that in *England* we cure our Fish with our own Salt.

By this they must mean the Rock Salt, or else it is not true in *Fact*; and if they mean the Rock, then 'tis against them, for *Scotland* will have the same Salt cheaper, than any Town in *England*, where they cure Fish, can have it.

The Rock Salt is shipp'd at *Liverpool* and *Chester*, the first and nearest Town to it in *England*, where they cure any Fish, is *Biddisford*; here they must fetch their Coals

from *Wales* by Sea, and pay 5 s. per Chalden Duty on them to boil this Salt with; at *Fowey* 'tis still worse, at *Falmouth*, *Pensance*, and all the Towns about the *Lands End*, still worse; whereas *Scotland* shall carry the Rock Salt in 3 Days Sail from *Liverpool* to the *Clyd*, then boil it with their own Coal, which pays no Tax: And thus if the Rock Salt will cure the Fish, *Scotland* may have it 20 s. per Cent. cheaper than *England*; and the Quarrel at *Foreign Salt* dyes to their own Advantage

MISCELLANEA.

IN my last I gave you a Touch of the Affair of *Glasgow*——I have but a Word or two to add upon that Head.

Would any body think, who reads that Story, that the Tumults on that Head should fall among People of Sense and Sobriety, that have been deep Sufferers for their Religion, and than whom none were more violent for the Revolution, or more thankful after it; a City zealous and active in all the present Successes of Liberty and Religion in *Scotland*, and generally speaking, honour'd with sober Inhabitants, religious and well-govern'd Families, grave and worthy Magistrates, and every thing from whence Good might have been expected.

What then has been the Case? The Answer is plain, and will appear in the Consequence; all *Jacobite* Infusions, *Popish* and *High-Flying* Artifice, first to embark the meanest and meer Rascallity of the Town, and then filling the Heads of the honest, but unthinking poor, merely debauch their Understandings by the Help of Drink, furious and foolish Notions about their Crown and their Church, and so hurried the poor thoughtless Wretches into their own Destruction; and now the Charm is laid, who are at the bottom, who the Principals and Fomenters of all this, but open, notorious and profess'd *Jacobites*——Such the Persons now in Prison own themselves to be; such the Ringleaders, of whom we are told,

several more are taken up by the Confessions of the former two——What strange preposterous Doings are these? What Insatulations then are they, that the poor People are under, and who are the meer Enemies of the Union, as such?

I could enlarge here on the Easiness to possess a Rabble even against their Friends, and of what pernicious Consequence it is to suffer Whisperers and malicious Enemies of a Government in a City.

But I must caution the World too; not to run away with it, that the whole City of *Glasgow* are concern'd in this Matter——For tho' I will not say, they may not have wanted Resolution to suppress early the first Beginnings of such a Fire, or perhaps caution to prevent the early Murmurs of the Crowd; yet 'tis plain, being once scatter'd and crush'd by the Rabble, they after wanted Power to do it——Nay, so far were they from being able to do it, that some of them are to this Hour obliged to keep from their Habitations; so that the City seem'd abandon'd to the Discretion of the Mob, and no honest Men durst show their Minds.

From hence is a good Lesson to all Magistrates against giving the least Countenance to Street Disorders; the publick Peace is the immediate Charge upon Magistracy, and the Magistrates of every City are really, not only by Law, but by the Nature

Nature of the thing; answerable for the Peace; and therefore if they find themselves in Danger to be over-power'd, their Duty is to apply in Time to the Government for Assistance; who in all such Cases will take them into Protection.

WHereas a malicious Report has been spread about, that the Author of the REVIEW being in Scotland, the REVIEW is not perform'd by the same Person, as usual—Which Report is carefully banded about to lessen the Reputation and Value of the said Paper.

This is, First, to assure the World, that no Person whatever has or ever had any Concern in writing the said Paper. Emitt'd the REVIEW—That wherever the Author may be, the Papers are wrote with his own Hand, and the Originals may be seen at the Printers.

Secondly, the Judgment of the Gentlemen, that spread this Report, must be very good; that can neither guess at the Style, nor guess by the Story or Manner of it both, whether it be the Author's, and where the Author is.

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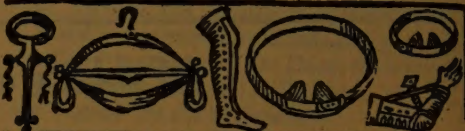
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